



DVA COVID-19 Update: February 18, 2022

The DVA Healthcare Center (HCC) has two COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients who are recovering in community-based healthcare settings and are expected to be clinically cleared to return to the HCC soon. The HCC has two COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC COVID Isolation Unit, the lowest number in the previous six weeks reflective of the significant drop in the infection rate in the HCC. All other Veteran Patients tested negative this week for COVID. There are two Veteran Patients in protective isolation for COVID-19 monitoring purposes as one recently returned from community-based care and one was recently admitted to the DVA, the first new admission since the COVID-19 surge in late December. Despite these significant successes, the HCC will maintain regular COVID-19 testing and broad infectious disease control procedures to minimize the risk of COVID to Veteran Patients and staff. All masking, distancing/barriers and heightened hygienic and cleaning procedures remain in place and COVID-19 testing will continue until further notice. Pursuant to the Governor's recent Executive Order (14F), no visitors are permitted entry to the HCC unless they are either: (1) fully vaccinated, (2) show proof of a negative COVID test within the previous 48 hours, or (3) submit to rapid COVID testing at the HCC.

While the DVA Residential Facility experienced a second wave of COVID-19 positive cases among Veteran Residents nearly four weeks ago, we are in the second week with no COVID-19 positive Veteran Residents in the Residential Facility. All Veteran Residents, except those who were excluded from testing as they recently had COVID, tested negative for the virus this week. One Veteran Resident, who contracted COVID while in a community-based healthcare setting, remains there pending clinical clearance to return. There are no Veteran Residents in self-isolation due to contact tracing nor due to clinical risk assessments. The DVA continues with monthly testing for all Veteran Residents with the next such testing scheduled for mid-March. With the absence of COVID cases among DVA Staff and Veteran Residents, regular on and off Campus recreational and therapeutic activities are phased back to regular status including sporting events, shopping trips, movies, community-based events and group activities that present a low risk of COVID-19 exposure.

Since the Pandemic began, the DVA has provided direct care for 273 Veteran Residents and Veteran Patients at our Campus of which 126 tested or retested positive for COVID-19. Of those testing positive, 117 recovered from the virus, two are in a community-based hospital or a clinical rehab setting and two are in Isolation on campus. One Veteran Resident and three Veteran Patients passed away in 2020 due to COVID-19, and one Veteran Patient passed away in January 2021 from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away in December 2020 from a non-COVID-19 medical occurrence.

Of the 132 DVA staff members contracting or re-contracting COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, all have recovered and returned to work. The DVA vaccine rate for staff is 89% having received a first COVID vaccine dose and 80% being fully vaccinated with 64% receiving a booster vaccine (fluctuations in vaccination rates are due to new staff pending vaccinations). On-Campus Vaccine clinics continued providing COVID-19 and Flu vaccines to Veteran Patients and Residents, with 99% vaccinated for COVID and 95% of Veteran Patients vaccinated for the Flu.

The current DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.